

# The Garden Connection

*A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens*

## Annual Garden Harvest Breakfast Celebration – Saturday, August 28th

Hope to see you Saturday, August 28th at 9 a.m. for our 22nd Annual Harvest Breakfast Celebration. Come and meet some of the other gardeners and enjoy a delicious pot luck style breakfast.

Here are some the details:

- ◆ We gather from approximately 9 to 10 a.m. Come for as long as you can.
- ◆ We gather at the garden entrance near the picnic tables. You can't miss us.
- ◆ No cost to participate but we do ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought in the past include: bakery, hot breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, etc.
- ◆ Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee are provided.
- ◆ We hold a short garden meeting around 9:45 a.m. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. We welcome your suggestions.

We keep our gathering brief since we know you may other things going on a Saturday in summer. Hope to see you!

## Environmental Factors can Affect Developing Tomatoes

Do you have tomatoes with brown to black leathery bottoms, misshapen fruit, growth cracks, and/or blotchy ripening? The problem might be environmental and not a disease or insects. High temperatures, irregular watering, and heavy rainfall can all cause unexpected things to happen to your tomatoes. The photo on the right shows blossom end rot. Notice the black leathery bottoms on the fruits. It is caused by uneven distribution of calcium. but fertilizing is not the answer. Water is needed to transport the nutrients to the tomato plant. Water regularly, avoid drenching and drought and if possible, mulch to conserve moisture. Some varieties are resistant.



## Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at [lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) or call 262-548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Your message will be relayed to Ann Wied. You can also e-mail Ann directly at [ann.wied@wisc.edu](mailto:ann.wied@wisc.edu).



## Inside this issue

Harvest Breakfast.....	1
Environmental Factors ..	1
Contact Information.....	1
Bulletin Board .....	1
Harvesting Tips .....	2
Gardening Questions ....	2
Permanent Gardens .....	2
Did You Know .....	2
Plant Waste Piles .....	2



## Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

## Harvesting Tips - Potatoes & Onions

**Potatoes:** If you noticed the vines of your potato plants declining, that is normal for this time of year. Potatoes are usually harvested after the vines have died. Potatoes planted to use in early summer are often called “new” potatoes and are harvested in July before the vines have begun to die. These new potatoes have very thin skins and should be used right away since they do not store well. “Late potatoes” are usually dug in August or September after the vines have died. Skins of late potatoes are tougher and can be stored and used at a later date if stored properly.

**Onions:** Remove any plants that form flower stalks and use these immediately. They do not produce good onion bulbs for storage. Harvest the remaining bulbs when most of the tops have fallen over. The length of the storage time varies with the variety grown. The sweeter varieties usually do not store well.



## Gardening/Horticulture Assistance is Available

Do you have a gardening question? You can contact the Waukesha County Extension Horticulture Helpline by e-mail at [uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov) or call 262-548-7779. Currently, calls are being answered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon. If you send an email, feel free to include photos!

## Permanent Plots

If you have a permanent plot and have not gardened your plot to its “potential” and/or have not gardened much in it for the last few years, please consider giving it up. We have gardeners who are interested in a permanent plot and would be happy to work on preparing the garden this fall for next year's gardening season. Thank you.

## Did you Know????

Did you know the Waukesha County Rental Gardens are coordinated by Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin Madison? Did you know about all of the science-based information you can find on the Wisconsin Horticulture Division of Extension website at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/>? Did you know that they also have a Horticulture Facebook page which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinGarden/>? Did you know that the Extension office in Waukesha County also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionWaukeshaCo/>? These pages all have great resources—check them out!



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## Plant Waste Piles

There are several plant waste piles located at the garden. Please place plant waste in the established plant waste pile areas. Do NOT start new piles.

Ann Wied

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